

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE 8

5  
JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER  
May 1986, Volume 3, No. 10

STRICTLY PERSONAL: EXCERPTS FROM MY DIARY

A May 8 -- Washington is buzzing over CIA Director William Casey's threat to prosecute leading newspapers, including The Washington Post and The New York Times, for publishing stories based on secret communications intercepts. I probably have had more access than any other reporter to these intercepts. My experience has been that politicians have been more careless than reporters about divulging sensitive information. The nation's worst security risk, if you are to take the classification stamp seriously, is the president. This has always been true, no matter who is president. For example, President Reagan told world on television that his decision to strike selective Libyan targets was based on intercepted messages. This told Libyans, if they didn't know it already, that United States can intercept and decode their messages. Now Casey wants to prosecute newspapers for disclosing what President Reagan had already revealed.